

(Germany (Soviet Zone))

COUNTRY

Military Information from the Letzing Heath Training Area

TOPIC

EVALUATION

see below

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED

23 November 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

25X1X 25X1A

1. A troop train, which stood at the Neuhausleben (M 53/Y 51) railroad station on [redacted], headed toward Magdeburg, consisted of 10 boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and flatcars carrying 6 T-34 tanks, and 2 trucks, including [redacted]. Another train observed at the Hausleben railroad station at 4 p.m. on 31 October consisted of 10 boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and a number of flatcars carrying 3 AT guns of about 50-mm, 4 prime movers and 4 trucks of the [redacted]. The train came from Millers-25X1A leben and was facing toward Magdeburg. (1)

2. A train, which stood at the Burg railroad station at 5:50 p.m. on 30 October, headed toward Magdeburg, carried 60 tank trucks and 2 trucks with box-like bodies, including [redacted]. Eleven T-34 tanks with consecutive numbers from 01 through 11 and trucks [redacted] were entrained at the Genthin railroad station at about 5:20 p.m. (2) A train loaded at the Hausleben railroad station after 8 a.m. on 5 November consisted of 15 boxcars carrying 46 x 120-mm mortars, five boxcars with ammunition boxes and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying trucks [redacted]. (1)

3. The maneuvers at Letzing Heath which, according to instructions to the local Bürgermeister, were to begin on 10 October, were subsequently postponed until 25 October and eventually canceled altogether. (3) The proprietor of a Finnish steam bath in Planken said that the units in the Planken area were alerted on 27 October and started entraining at the Hausleben-Millersleben railroad stations on the evening of that day. The units allegedly belonged to a tank division, components of which were stationed in Magdeburg and Burg. During their stay at the troop training grounds, the troops were served three hot meals a day. (4)

4. A fragment of an envelope, which was found at Letzing Heath in late October, was addressed to a soldier of Unit [redacted] 8 and postmarked 13 October 1951. (5)

Comments.

- (1) [redacted] the trains on 30 October and 5 November carried components of the 7th Gls Tank Div, and the train of 31 October a component of the 6th Gls Tank Div. The units probably returned to their winter quarters upon

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completion of field training at Letzling Heath.

- (2) [REDACTED] the material belongs to components of the 7th Gds Tank Div, which probably returned to their home stations upon completion of the field exercises in the Wolmirstedt-Tangerhuetten-Burg area. Another source, in a report of 29 October from Burg, reported the loading of a train with troops of the 7th Gds Tank Div and the waiting for entrainment of further components of this division.
- (3) Other information also indicates that large-scale final maneuvers were conducted in the areas of Wolmirstedt-Tangerhuetten-Burg and Rathenow-Stendal-Jerichow rather than at Letzling Heath proper.
- (4) Possibly the 19th Gds Mecz Div whose headquarters stayed in the Planken area during the summer training period, as indicated by [REDACTED]

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